



News Release

U.S. General Services Administration
Northeast & Caribbean Region

GSA R2-06-112
For Immediate Release
August 28, 2006

Contact: Renee Miscione (212) 264-0424
renee.miscione@gsa.gov

Federal Building Plaza Improvements Planned

Syracuse, NY - The Plaza at the James M. Hanley Federal Building in downtown Syracuse is about to receive a much needed upgrade. The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) plans to break ground this month on a project that will greatly improve safety and security at the plaza while, at the same time make it more inviting and people-friendly.

"This project will enhance an already popular and much-used public space for both the federal employees and citizens of Syracuse. As an additional bonus it will compliment other local efforts in the nearby area," said GSA Northeast and Caribbean Region Administrator Emily Baker. "We're very pleased that GSA has long been recognized as a "Good Neighbor" in Syracuse and we're proud to support local revitalization initiatives," she added.

In addition to enhancing safety and security with the installation of new bollards and cameras, the \$1.6 million project will include much needed infrastructure and drainage repairs to the plaza surface, user amenities, and new landscaping with increased green space - all of which are expected to be completed and ready for citizens and employees of the building to enjoy by next summer. Rand & Jones Enterprises, Inc. of Buffalo, NY, a certified small, disadvantaged women-owned business is the construction contractor on the job.

"As a federal agency, we have the responsibility and opportunity to complete our projects in a way that supports local development goals. Our public investment in federal buildings not only supports community development, but also the existing community infrastructure, including public transportation, environmental sustainability programs, and local businesses, thus benefiting the larger community," said GSA's Commissioner of Public Buildings David L. Winstead.

The new plaza was designed by Staunton Chow PC Engineers & Architects of New York which included the designer (Clough Harbor & Associates, LLP, Albany, NY) who recently completed the Clinton Square Fountain area. Through GSA's Design Excellence* and Peer Review Standards, Staunton Chow made changes based upon local participation and input from Syracuse University, Bruce Fowle from Fox & Fowle Associates from NYC and Carol Johnson of Carol R. Johnson Associates from Boston, MA. The project also received input from City Officials, various Syracuse organizations and committees, local business owners and numerous federal agencies within the Hanley Federal Building. The project was designed to compliment the City's overall vision of the Clinton Street corridor and other planned work in the area.

"We've enjoyed many years of use of the plaza. However, the freezing and melting of snow and ice through 30 + upstate New York winters have taken a toll on the plaza surface. This will be the first major overhaul since the completion of the Hanley Building in the early 70's," said Frank Santella, Director of GSA's upstate New York service district.

The project will also require the relocation of the sculpture "One, Two, Three" by artist Sol LeWitt. Installed on the plaza in 1979, the work will be moved to an area near the west side entrance of the Hanley Building.

Knowing that the Hanley Building plaza was a popular site for local community events in Syracuse, such as the annual Parties in the Plaza and Taste of Syracuse, GSA coordinated the construction time frames around these activities. The UpDownTowners of Syracuse association has enjoyed use of the plaza for over 20 years and the organization's annual Parties on the Plaza have raised millions in support of local charities. The refurbished plaza will be ready for next season's events.

###

GSA is a centralized federal procurement, property management, and policy agency created by Congress to improve government efficiency and help federal agencies better serve the public. It acquires, on behalf of federal agencies, office space, equipment, telecommunications, information technology, supplies and services. It also plays a key role in developing and implementing governmentwide policies. GSA's 13,000 associates provide services and solutions for the office operations of more than one million federal workers in more than 8,000 government-owned and leased building in 2,000 U.S. communities. The Northeast Caribbean Region real estate portfolio consists of 450 government owned and leased regional buildings. GSA's website is www.gsa.gov.